
Introduced Version

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. _19_**

Introduced by: Welch, Pierce

A RESOLUTION memorializing James "Doc" Counsilman.

*Whereas, James "Doc" Counsilman passed away recently
at the age of 83;*

*Whereas, James "Doc" Counsilman is considered by many
to be the greatest coach in the history of organized swimming;*

*Whereas, James "Doc" Counsilman received a bachelor's
degree from Ohio State University, a master's degree from the
University of Illinois, and a doctorate degree from the
University of Iowa;*

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Whereas, James "Doc" Counsilman was a great swimmer long before he became a great coach. He attended Ohio State University on a swimming scholarship and, while at Ohio State, won a national championship in the butterfly-breaststroke;

Whereas, Because of his doctorate degree, James "Doc" Counsilman received his now famous nickname, "Doc";

Whereas, James "Doc" Counsilman led the Indiana University Hoosiers to six straight NCAA Championships from 1968-73 and 23 Big Ten titles during his 33-year tenure, including 20 straight championships from 1961 through 1980;

Whereas, James "Doc" Counsilman's career record at Indiana University speaks volumes about his coaching and mentoring abilities. In his 33-year career, he had a record of 285-41, including 18 undefeated seasons, 12 of which were consecutive undefeated seasons from 1967 through 1978;

Whereas, James "Doc" Counsilman's coaching efforts transcended the aquatic center at Indiana University;

Whereas, James "Doc" Counsilman coached the 1964 and 1976 Olympic teams, which won 48 medals (17 gold, 18 silver, 13 bronze), including five gold medal relays;

Whereas, During his career, James "Doc" Counsilman had 60 swimmers go on to be Olympians, including Mark Spitz, who won seven gold medals in the 1972 Olympics, which is still an Olympic gold medal record;

Whereas, James "Doc" Counsilman was recognized by his peers for his greatness. He was inducted into the International Swimming and Diving Hall of Fame in 1976;

Whereas, In addition to his duties at Indiana University, James "Doc" Counsilman was president of the American Swimming Coaches Association, was National Coach of the Year in 1969 and 1971, and received a Certificate of Merit



from the Federation International de Natation (FINA), the international swimming federation, in 1981;

Whereas, Always a great swimmer, in 1979, at the age of 58, James "Doc" Counsilman became the oldest man to swim the English Channel;

Whereas, James "Doc" Counsilman wrote four books, including the 1968 book "Science of Swimming", which has been translated into 20 different languages and is referred to as the bible of swimming; and

Whereas, James "Doc" Counsilman was an outstanding swimming coach, but he was an even greater person. He was a dedicated family man who adored his wife and children and a compassionate mentor to all who sought his advice and counseling; Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives wishes to
2 express its sympathy to the family of James "Doc" Counsilman and its
3 gratitude for the hours of dedicated service James "Doc" Counsilman
4 gave to the students of Indiana University and the citizens of Indiana
5 and the nation.

6 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
7 Representatives shall transmit a copy of this resolution to James "Doc"
8 Counsilman's wife, Marjorie; son, Brian; and daughters, Cathy Bonner
9 and Jill Morris.

